

DISTRICT BULLETIN



A World-Class Community of Learners



FRIDLEY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Celebrating the Class of 2019!

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+ NEWS ON STUDENTS, STAFF, & COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Congratulations Class of 2019!

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from all around the district!

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**SUMMER
2019**



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The Fridley Public Schools District Bulletin is published three times a year and is mailed to every home in the Fridley School District. Past issues are available online at www.fridley.k12.mn.us

Fridley Public Schools District 14
6000 West Moore Lake Drive
Fridley, MN 55432 © Fridley Public Schools, 2019



FRIDLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

International Baccalaureate World Schools

DISTRICT BULLETIN SUMMER 2019

SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Kim Hiel

SCHOOL BOARD

Chris Riddle - *Chair*
 Mary Kay Delvo - *Vice Chair*
 Donna Prewedo - *Treasurer*
 Avonna Starck - *Clerk*
 Carol Thornton - *Director*
 Abdisalam Adam - *Director*

SCHOOL LEADERSHIP

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Principal: Patty Hand
Assistant Principal: Kelly McConville

Fridley Area Learning Center
Principal: Dr. Jason Bodey

Fridley Middle School
Principal: Amy Cochran
Assistant Principal: Dr. Danielle Peterson

Hayes Elementary School
Principal: John Piotraschke

R. L. Stevenson Elementary School
Principal: Daryl Vossler

DISTRICT OFFICES

Activities: 763-502-5606
 Buildings/Grounds: 763-502-5008
 Business & Finance: 763-502-5004
 Communications: 763-502-5020
 Community Education: 763-502-5100
 Educational Services: 763-502-5009
 Equity: 763-502-5063
 Enrollment: 763-502-5081
 Human Resources: 763-502-5013
 Nutritional Services: 763-502-5021
 Special Education: 763-502-5025
 Technology: 763-502-5032
 Transportation: 763-502-5026
 IB (DP): 763-502-5062
 IB (MYP): 763-502-5036
 IB (PYP) Hayes: 763-502-5228
 IB (PYP) Stevenson: 763-502-5317
 IB (PYP) Preschool: 763-502-5117

Communications and Community Relations Office:

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 Community Engagement Jael McLemore
 Communications Specialist David Webber
 Communications Specialist Sarah Burghardt
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FRIDLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS COMMUNITY FORUM

A listening session with Superintendent Dr. Hiel



PARENTS, COMMUNITY MEMBERS

GIVE FEEDBACK AT COMMUNITY FORUM

On its journey to become the best place to learn for students and the best place to work for staff, Fridley Public Schools invited parents and community members to a community forum on May 9, 2019 at the Fridley Community Center.

The purpose of the forum was to provide an opportunity to receive feedback from parents and community members through a meaningful and transparent process that would also maximize the collection and sharing of feedback at the conclusion of the forum.

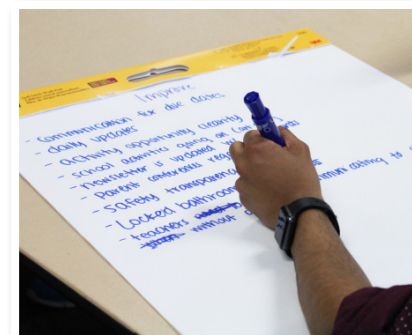
From parents of students in the district's early childhood programs to parents of high school students, more than 100 families and community members attended the event, eager to give feedback to the Superintendent and School Board members on the district's areas of strength and opportunities for growth.

Due to the large group of the attendees, the district used a World Café model to: explore questions that matter to parents, students and community members; encourage everyone's participation; connect diverse perspectives; and at the conclusion of the forum, enable the sharing of collective feedback.

"One of my goals during my first year at Fridley was to have a better understanding of the diverse needs of our community," said Fridley Superintendent Dr. Kim Hiel. "It is really important to me to hear the voice of parents, students and our community members."

Through World Café style conversations, parents discussed and gave feedback on how

the district was preparing students for college and careers, providing a safe/welcoming environment for students, and improving school-home partnerships. Students from Fridley High School and the Area Learning Center helped facilitate discussions, took notes of comments and conversations at their discussion tables, and shared those notes and what was discussed with the rest of the forum attendees.



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FRIDLEY SCHOOL BOARD



(Back row, l-r) Mary Kay Delvo, Chris Riddle, Carol Thornton. (Front row, l-r) Avonna Starck, Abdisalam Adam, Donna Prewedo.

SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS:

Fridley School Board meetings are typically held on the third Tuesday of each month, with a schedule as follows: 5:30 PM Work Session; 7:00 PM Public Forum; 7:30 PM Business Meeting

All school board meetings are held at the Fridley Community Center, 6085 7th Street NE, Fridley. All meetings are open to the public.

stay connected:



Did You Know that community members can sign up for our **bi-monthly e-newsletter**?

Visit www.fridley.k12.mn.us and navigate to the Be Informed tab and click on Publications. You will find a link to subscribe!



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FHS graduate Danielle Martinson smiles during the 61st Commencement Ceremony held at Roy Wilkins Auditorium.



Congratulations FRIDLEY HIGH SCHOOL Graduates!

Fridley High School held its 61st Commencement Ceremony on May 30, 2019 at the Roy Wilkins Auditorium. A total of 234 students took their final steps as high school seniors across the stage before receiving their diplomas and becoming alumni.

The Fridley High School Concert Band welcomed guests, performing *Pomp and Circumstance* as the graduating seniors marched into the venue. Seniors Gao-je Vang and Lucy Kuempel served as student emcees for the ceremony, while additional student speakers were Nadia Hawkins, who gave the welcoming address, and Johannah Barrett, who gave the student address.

Dean of Students Carrie Wrona gave the faculty address, encouraging students to “keep going,” a phrase that her grandfather would always tell her after each of her educational milestones.

“Continue to learn; keep pushing yourselves, even through difficult times; discover your passions and have fun. Believe in yourself and find a way to make a difference.”

Carrie Wrona
Dean of Students

Superintendent Dr. Kim Hiel addressed the class, encouraging them to continue to bring their confidence, empowerment and passion into their future endeavors.

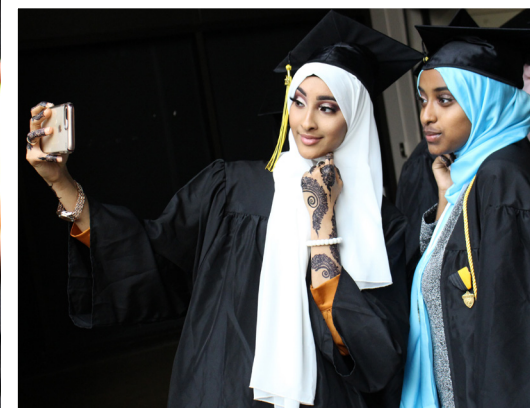
Along with the Concert Band, the Fridley High School Concert Choir, featuring graduating senior Kathrine Kruc on piano, also performed at the ceremony.



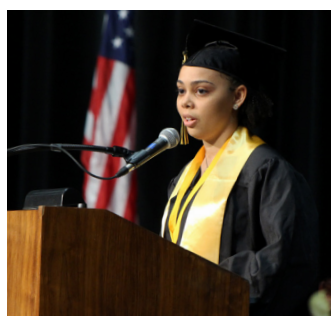
234 Fridley High School students graduated in the

Class of 2019

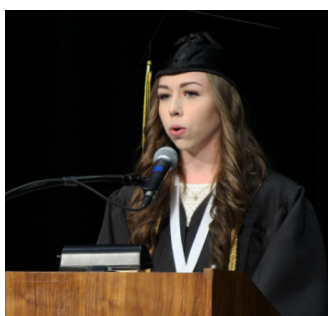
- 81 students earned Honors Designations (GPA 3.25 or above)
- 15 International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme Candidates
- 4 students completed the IB Career-related Programme
- 36 IB Scholars
- 4 students graduated with an Associate's Degree



Lucy Kuempel & Gao-je Vang



Nadia Hawkins



Johannah Barrett



Dean of Students Carrie Wrona

FRIDLEY HIGH SCHOOL

Class of 2019

Congratulations to the 234 Fridley High School students who graduated on May 30! We are proud to call you Fridley alumni! Fridley High School seniors shared a glimpse of their experiences and next steps with the District Bulletin. Students looked back on their time at Fridley High - sharing words of wisdom, favorite memories and future plans.

Mia Pappas

Mia Pappas spoke no English when she arrived in the U.S. at the age of eight. Through resiliency and determination, Mia has successfully overcome obstacles and proudly earned her high school diploma, with honors, on May 30.

Born into an orphanage in China, Mia spent the first years of her life on her own. She was occasionally placed in foster homes, but never felt any personal attachment. For eight years, Mia bounced from one foster home to another. She was eventually placed back in the orphanage where she met her adoptive parents, Patty and Jim Pappas, two weeks prior to her 9th birthday.

At first, Mia was resistant to the idea of moving to the United States, but excited for the opportunity to have her own family. She settled in, but initially struggled to fit in at an elementary school in Coon Rapids.

"I was in EL (English Learners) in elementary school, and in the beginning, I hated it because I felt like something was wrong with me," said Mia.

She still recalls her first day of school, when her class went to the media center to pick out books to read. Without knowing a word of English, she was directed to the picture and alphabet book section, but felt a strong yearning to pick out grade-level chapter books.

"I didn't want to read the easy books," said Mia. "It was from then on that I was determined to change my life."

She worked every day after school with a family friend, Bonnie Porter,

who was an English and a Second Language Reading teacher at the school. After long days, hard work and frustrating times, Mia credits Porter with helping her overcome the language barrier.

After elementary school, Mia's mother Patty wanted to enroll her into a district with a Chinese program to retain her native language and culture. Fridley Middle School, an International Baccalaureate World School, requires the study of a second language, and the option for Chinese was what brought the family into the school district. Mia continued studying Chinese throughout her time at the middle school and high school.

By the time Mia was in 8th grade, she had tested out of the EL class. However, when she entered high school, she resumed the class and is thankful for the experience and relationships she gained.

She grew close to Fridley High School EL teachers Rachel Imholte and Susan Kim. Both teachers have been incredibly supportive to her, working with her through hard times and offering advice. Mia also worked as a teaching assistant for both teachers, helping with technology and classroom needs.

With the help of Ms. Imholte, Mia enrolled in the AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) class. AVID is an academic support program that prepares students for college eligibility and success. In the class, students work on study strategies, note taking skills, scholarship and college applications, and other skills that prepares

"I want to be able to teach and help other kids like myself. I think it will be a rewarding career."

MIA PLANS TO EARN HER BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA.



MIA PAPPAS

them for a four-year college.

Mia plans to begin her college journey at a local community college to complete her General Education credits, then aims to transfer to the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities to complete her Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education. Mia currently works as a substitute supervisor's assistant at Columbia Heights Public Schools' Early Childhood program, where her mother also works.

She was inspired to pursue this career after watching her mom interact with young students, teaching them and helping them through struggles.

"It reminded me of myself working with our family friend, Bonnie, when I was young," said Mia. "I want to be able to teach and help other kids like myself. I think it will be a rewarding career."

Mia's advice to her 8th grade self, or a fellow EL student, is to always be willing to try new experiences and don't be afraid to fail.

"Just try everything out, don't be afraid of it. Also, you can have fun days, but most importantly, you need to get your work done," she said.

Emma Willcox

Emma Willcox's journey to earning her high school diploma was certainly not easy. Having struggled with failing lungs, multiple hospital visits, and eventually undergoing a bilateral lung transplant, there is nothing that can stop Emma from reaching her goals.

Emma was born with cystic fibrosis (CF), a genetic disease that causes persistent lung infections and can limit the ability to breathe over time. Despite the disease, she is a positive, energetic individual who has consistently worked hard in her academics, even through difficult times.

Growing up in the Fridley school district, Emma attended Stevenson, Fridley Middle School and Fridley High School. It wasn't until freshman year that her health began to quickly decline due to the CF. She was given an oxygen tank to assist in her breathing and a feeding tube to boost her nutrition and weight gain. Her increasing health challenges caused her family's decision for Emma to become homebound and receive her schooling at home. Determined to not fall behind in school, she continued her studies at home with a tutor.

One day, she woke up barely able to breathe and was quickly rushed to the emergency room.

"We tried all my treatments but my CO2 (carbon dioxide) levels were

"Honestly, it was extremely difficult, but I focused, worked hard and graduated without having to retake a grade."

EMMA WAS THE FIRST MINNESOTAN TO RECEIVE A PEDIATRIC LUNG TRANSPLANT DURING HER FRESHMAN YEAR. HER GOAL IS TO BECOME A CHILD LIFE SPECIALIST AND WORK IN A CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL.

above measurable, which put me into a coma," said Emma. "At that point, the doctors decided that I needed a lung transplant or I wasn't going to make it."

Emma was 15 years old and down to about 60 lbs, and at that time, a pediatric lung transplant had never been done in the state of Minnesota before. After an evaluation from doctors, she was confined to a bed in the hospital for the next eight months.

Throughout that time, Emma's lungs collapsed multiple times. After one particularly frightening incident, Emma began to fear that she would not live long enough to graduate from high school.

"I remember, very vividly, looking my father into the eyes and saying I'm not going to make it," said Emma. "He said that was the scariest day of his life."

She took one day at a time and continued to work with her tutor every day. Along with determination came Emma's positive and hopeful energy.

"It's funny to think about it now, but



EMMA WILLCOX

my goal was to get these new lungs to make it to the State Fair," said Emma. "My family just loves the Minnesota State Fair."

Emma received her transplant on July 27 and, after three weeks of healing time, was able to continue her family's age old tradition of attending the "Great Minnesota Get-Together."

Grateful for a second chance, she returned to Fridley High School as a sophomore, beginning with a half day schedule and working her way up to a normal schedule - catching right up to her fellow classmates.

"Honestly, it was extremely difficult, but I focused, worked hard and graduated without having to retake a grade," said Emma.

Through the support of family, friends and staff, Emma is now a flourishing, healthy Fridley High School alumna, who is proud of her scars and strong will.

"I used to be ashamed of my scars because they are literally all over my body. But now, I'm thriving. I love my scars - there is absolutely nothing to be ashamed of."

Emma will be attending Winona State University where she will major in social work. Her goal is to become a child life specialist in a children's hospital, where she can help kids like herself cope with the challenges that come with hospitalization, illness and disabilities.



Emma Willcox (far right) and friends Elizabeth Radoush and Kerri Beers at Stevenson Elementary.

Q&A with the Class of 2019

Stefany Martinez-Perez

Q: WHAT HAS BEEN AN OBSTACLE THAT YOU HAVE OVERCOME?

“When my godmother, Joyce McConville, passed away in 2015. We were incredibly close - she was like a second mother to me. It was like a whole new feeling of loneliness. My grades and relationships suffered. I eventually found it within myself to work hard, to be an example for my younger sister, Maya. I promised myself to actively do the best I can in school, to work on my relationships. During my junior year, I decided to become an International Baccalaureate Candidate and be part of the full Diploma Programme (DP). I’ve studied very hard and graduated with high honors. **My advice to incoming freshmen is** ‘don’t carry the weight of the world on your shoulders.’ Don’t overburden yourself with responsibilities and troubles - especially circumstances you can’t change.”

Q: WHAT ARE YOUR COLLEGE PLANS?

“I will be attending the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities and I will be majoring in political science.”

Puwch Cham

Q: WHAT HAS BEEN AN OBSTACLE THAT YOU HAVE OVERCOME?

“My parents separated when I was in elementary school, and my dad had always been the one who checked on my grades. After that, I lost sight of the importance of academics and slid by on the bare minimum. Finally, during freshman year, my mother told me how excited she was going to be to see me graduate from high school. That was the wake up call I needed. I knew that I had to step it up - and not only did I want to do this for her, I wanted to do it for myself. I became my own advocate, and I started working hard to earn the grades I was capable of. Every single report card steadily started improving. I’ve learned that I can push myself and achieve what I dream of. **My advice to incoming freshmen is** to be the person who motivates yourself. Get your work done, because you are the one who will benefit the most from it.”

Q: WHAT ARE YOUR COLLEGE PLANS?

“I will be attending Augsburg University and I plan to pursue my interest in art.”

Hunter Gunderson

Q: WHAT HAS BEEN AN OBSTACLE THAT YOU HAVE OVERCOME?

“When I was in 8th grade, my cousins passed away in a car crash. That really took a toll on me. I started overeating, I suffered from anxiety and depression, and my grades started slipping. With the support of my parents and classmates who became my best friends, I’ve been able to gain confidence, which has helped me regain my traction and do well in school. I’m so thankful for the people who supported me through my struggles. **My advice to incoming freshmen is** to ‘always be the real you.’ You are definitely not in this alone and there are people out there who love and care about you”

Q: WHAT ARE YOUR COLLEGE PLANS?

“I am attending North Hennepin Community College next year and I want to study theater and psychology.”

Sierra Lewis

Q: WHAT HAS BEEN AN OBSTACLE THAT YOU HAVE OVERCOME?

“I’ve taken on a mother-like role for my younger brother, Donovan, my whole life. It’s been hard to find the perfect balance between focusing on myself and putting my energy into taking care of others. For years, I struggled with anxiety and depression - which made it difficult to join clubs and extra-curricular activities. I worked extremely hard to overcome my struggles internally, and I am so thankful for the teachers and staff here at Fridley High School who have helped me through so much. I want others to know that they are capable, lovable and valuable enough to go through whatever you are going through. **My advice to incoming freshmen is** to ‘get involved and try every opportunity that is in front of you.’ Don’t let anything hold you back because you are capable of anything. You can push yourself to get to where you need to be.”

Q: WHAT ARE YOUR COLLEGE PLANS?

“I’m going to the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities and I want to earn my bachelor’s degree in psychology.”

Kee’Ara Bradley

Welcomed with open arms, Kee’Ara moved to Fridley from Lake City, Florida at the beginning of her junior year. While the weather took some getting used to, she quickly bonded with classmates and staff members.

“Fridley High School is much smaller than my high school in Florida,” Kee’Ara said. “Teachers and staff are always so kind and asking what they can do to help. They are always there for me and I’ve loved that about coming to school here.”

Full of energy and enthusiasm, she constantly keeps a positive outlook on life. This school year, however, proved to be an incredibly difficult year for her, navigating her grades, work and social life through family tragedies.

Her grandfather, whom Kee’Ara was close to, died in August 2018 from a chronic lung disease. The death was difficult for her to cope with, as he was one of the most important people in her life. Only a few months later, Kee’Ara’s cousin and aunt passed away, and her brother was critically injured in a severe car accident.

Through the tough times, Kee’Ara said she remained focused, but couldn’t have done it without the support from her teachers and high school deans. Finding a silver lining among her struggles, she used these tragedies to learn and grow. Since she was a little girl, Kee’Ara has always wanted to be a nurse. She was enrolled in the Emergency Medical Technical / Emergency Medical Responders courses at FHS.

Prior to her grandfather’s death, she often passed on ideas and what she had learned in class to her grandmother who was caring for her grandfather. When her brother was in the car accident, she would stay behind, asking her teacher, Eric Anderson, about details on proposed surgeries. Kee’Ara will attend Anoka-Ramsey Community College, then plans to transfer to Florida State University to earn her Bachelor’s Degree in Nursing.

“Teachers and staff are always so kind and asking what they can do to help. They are always there for me and I’ve loved that about coming to school here.”

BENEFITTING FROM THE EMT / EMR CLASSES OFFERED AT FRIDLEY HIGH SCHOOL, KEE’ARA PLANS TO BECOME A REGISTERED NURSE.

KEE’ARA BRADLEY



COMMUNITY FORUM

continued from page 3

Areas of strength:

In discussing district strengths and areas that are working well, forum attendees highlighted: district and school communication to parents, caring teachers and staff who have built great relationships with students and families, district focus on maintaining safe schools, and resources for students and staff.

Areas of growth:

Parents and community members had extensive conversations on areas of great growth opportunities including: providing parent education on topics such as the grading system, homework expectations, class sizes, International Baccalaureate (IB) programs, and district policies; improving school to home communication; providing resources to better support students, classrooms and teachers; and student behavior.

Fridley Superintendent Dr. Kim Hiel thanked everyone who took time to attend the forum and said that as a new superintendent in the district, she valued the opportunity to listen to families and community members.



FHS and ALC student facilitators helped to lead discussions at the community forum.

“We have listened and we heard you,” said Hiel, “And I promise you that your concerns will be addressed so that together, we can make Fridley be the the best place to learn for our students.”

As the district leadership develops its operational plan, its next steps include: implementing feedback from the forum into the operational plan for improvement; ensuring feedback is incorporated into district goals for continuous improvement; and communicating progress to families and community members.

Fridley Public Schools would also like to thank Wendi Tillung, a World Café Facilitator, who facilitated the district’s community forum at no charge.



CELEBRATING

FRIDLEY GRADS



FRIDLEY MOORE LAKE AREA LEARNING CENTER CELEBRATES CLASS OF 2019 GRADS

The Fridley Moore Lake Area Learning Center (ALC) recognized 27 graduating seniors at the school's Class of 2019 commencement celebration on May 23, 2019. Parents, families and friends, Fridley Superintendent Dr. Kim Hiel, school board members, and district administration and staff also attended the event to support the students and celebrate their success. ALC staff greeted each graduate with hugs and praise as they accepted their high school diplomas at the ceremony.

"We are so proud of your accomplishments, and you should be proud of yourself," Principal of Alternative Services Dr. Jason Bodey said. "I hope you remember the les-

sons we've taught, persevere through future challenges, and keep learning your whole life."

The ALC offers an alternative path to students to earn a high school diploma in the Fridley school district, serving students from age 16 to 21 years old. The program features small class sizes, individual learning plans, flexible schedules, independent study and credit for on-the-job training. Students also may be dual-enrolled while in high school, working to make up credits required for graduation. It is open to Fridley resident students, as well as students from other districts and communities.

*Class of 2019
ALC graduates,
from left to right,
Javyontae Ellis,
Savanna Bordeaux,
Saja Jaleel, Whitney
Baxter, and Karlista
Knighten.*

Read the full ALC graduation ceremony story at www.fridley.k12.mn.us in the Fridley Public Schools News Archive!

View more **NEWS** in the **SPOTLIGHT** section on the homepage. Story is published in the **NEWS ARCHIVE** in May 2019.



EL GRADUATION CELEBRATION

The Fridley High School English Learners (EL) program held its annual Senior Farewell celebration on May 2, 2019. The purpose of the celebration is to honor all the graduating seniors who have participated in the EL program at the school over the last four years. By featuring the graduating EL students and showcasing their hard work and success in and out of the classroom, the celebration aims to inspire current EL students to achieve similar or greater levels of success themselves. The class of 2019 had a total of 19 seniors who were enrolled in the EL program.

FRIDLEY PRESCHOOL GRADUATION

Proud parents and family members watched their kindergarten-ready 4-year-olds graduate from Fridley Preschool on June 6, 2019 in the district auditorium. The 140 preschool students and future Class of 2032 performed songs they had practiced in class and walked across the auditorium stage to receive miniature diplomas from their teachers. Graduation ceremonies were held for both the morning and afternoon preschool sessions.



FRIDLEY TRANSITION PROGRAM GRADUATION

Fridley Transition Program celebrated seven students who graduated from the program on June 5, 2019. The program focuses on assisting students ages 18-21 as they progress from an educational high school setting toward living and working as independently as possible. For the student-led ceremony, the new graduates decorated the room, created a guest list, sent invitations and planned the program. Congratulations to our students!



From left to right, Fridley Transition teacher Alissa Blood, George Thompson, Jason Lokken, Cody Hazelton, Lucas Antil, Michael Couillard, Del Flomo and Jamal Connor-Oelschlager

OUR STUDENTS

Fridley High School senior Cece Lewis named Athena Award winner



Congratulations to senior Cecelyn “Cece” Lewis who is the 2019 FHS recipient of the Athena Award. Each year, the Athena Award is presented to an outstanding female student-athlete at more than 50 Minneapolis metro area private and public high schools. Cece is a standout member of the FHS track & field team, competing in the 100, 200, and 400 meter dashes. She has competed at the state-level throughout her entire high school career. She is also a member of the AAU (Amateur Athletic Union) Minnesota track & field team. Cece will be attending Concordia College in St. Paul this fall and plans to pursue her interests in psychology and criminology. With a \$10,000 track scholarship and multiple academic scholarships, nearly all of Lewis’ tuition will be covered.

Fridley High School senior earns full-tuition scholarship, grants to attend Carleton College

Fridley High School senior Nadia Hawkins was thrilled to receive her acceptance notification to Carleton College, one of the most prestigious liberal arts colleges in the nation. However, the letter that followed a few days later far exceeded her expectations - Nadia received more than \$70,000 in grant and scholarship funds from the college.

“I felt so relieved,” said Nadia. “After my initial visit there, I absolutely loved it and it became my number one choice, but I knew it was going to be expensive. I just wasn’t expecting such a big amount!”

Nadia said she has always wanted to attend a college like Carleton. In preparation for college-level academics, she enrolled in Fridley High School’s IB Diploma Programme (DP) and completed the requirements to be an IB Diploma Programme candidate. The IB DP is offered to juniors and seniors at Fridley High School and requires an extensive amount of coursework, lengthy essays, difficult exams and hours of community service, along with internal and external assessments. Students who take advantage of this opportunity often stand out to college admissions officers, as the program is known worldwide as a challenging, intellectual experience, and readily prepares high school students for the academic rigor of college classes.

Nadia added that the fundamentals of the IB curriculum framework have helped to develop her as a person.



“I would recommend this [Diploma Programme] path to other students because I’ve learned so many skills from being at an IB school. I know how to defend my opinions, look at everything from different perspectives, and how certain subjects can be interpreted based on different factors,” Nadia said. “I’ve become more open-minded and my international view is different.”

When considering majors, Nadia has a breadth of interests that she wants to explore, including English and history, but she’s currently leaning toward biology.

“Right now, I’m leaning towards becoming a doctor,” said Nadia. “I want to do research and solve problems, particularly in genetic conditions and disorders.”

FRIDLEY HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS NAMED MSHSL TRIPLE “A” AWARD RECIPIENTS

Congratulations to Fridley High School seniors Hailee Schalwig and Harrison Blum, winners of the Fridley High School 2019 Minnesota State High School League Triple “A” (Academics, Arts, and Athletics) Award. The Triple “A” Award is awarded to a male and female high school student who have exemplified themselves in academics, fine arts, and sports. Both Harrison and Hailee have enjoyed challenging themselves academically at Fridley High School while also maintaining extensive track records of extracurricular activities.

Hailee is a full International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme (DP) candidate and graduated at the top of her class with a 4.29 GPA. She was president of Fridley High School’s Chapter of National Honor Society and vice president of the school’s band. Hailee has played in jazz band, pep band, marching band, and pit orchestra, playing multiple variations of saxophone. She was also captain of the varsity swim and softball teams. Hailee will be attending Florida Southern College this fall and plans to pursue her interest in the science field.

Harrison graduated near the top of his class with high honors - maintaining a 3.8 GPA. He was captain of both varsity basketball and baseball teams at Fridley High School. He also played the baritone saxophone throughout his freshman to junior years. Harrison will be attending Luther College in Iowa to play collegiate baseball. He plans to major in business management with a minor in finance.



Hailee Schalwig Harrison Blum



FRIDLEY HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS HONORED AT SCHOLASTIC ACHIEVEMENT & RECOGNITION BANQUET

Fridley High School hosted the 61st Scholastic Achievement & Recognition Banquet on May 16, 2019, celebrating the hard work and achievement of the Class of 2019. The banquet, sponsored by the Fridley Lions Club, is held annually to honor FHS students who have earned high academic achievements. The Fridley Schools Foundation gave out more than 70 scholarships totaling over \$120,000, thanks to generous donations from community members and organizations.

This year, 15 students completed all the requirements of the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme (DP), earning official designations as “IB DP Candidates” and are eligible to earn the internationally-recognized IB diploma. Through the high school’s IB Career-related Programme (CP), four students completed the requirements of the IB CP. These students have taken part in the rigorous academics of DP and focused their learning specific to their career fields. Thirty-six students graduated with the “IB Scholar” distinction, completing at least four IB DP courses and final IB exams.

A total of 81 students earned honors designations, which requires a GPA of 3.25 or

above. Nineteen students were awarded the Presidential Education Award, which requires a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or above, as well as receiving a score at or above the 80th percentile on a nationally-recognized standardized college admission examination. In addition, four students were recognized for earning an Associate of Arts degree – three who earned their degrees at Anoka-Ramsey Community College, and one student who earned her degree at Minneapolis Community and Technical College through the high school’s Post-Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) program.

The Fridley-Columbia Heights Rotary Club STRIVE (Students Taking a Renewed Interest in the Value of Education) program awarded 19 seniors scholarships. The program recognizes and rewards students who show the greatest improvement in academic achievement during their senior year. The Fridley Alumni Choir awarded two students with the Sterling Arts Award. Each student was given a \$2,000 scholarship to pursue the fine arts in post-secondary education.



Class of 1967 Scholarship recipient - Nadira Hussein



RVG “Go Tigers” Scholarship recipient - Jacob Johnson

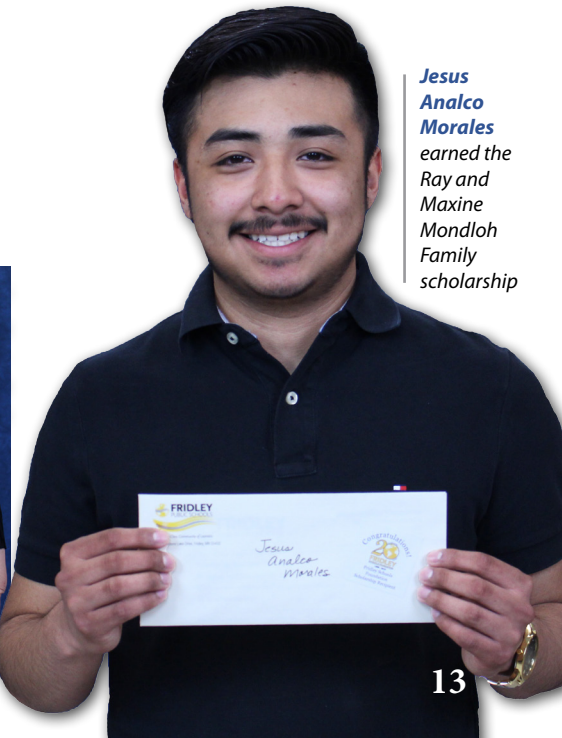


FRIDLEY
SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

The **Fridley Schools Foundation** awarded more than 70 scholarships to Fridley High School seniors, totaling over **\$120,000**. All funds were donated from local community members and organizations.

THANK YOU to supporters of the **Fridley Community Scholarship Program!**

Learn more at FridleySchoolsFoundation.org



Jesus Analco Morales earned the Ray and Maxine Mondloh Family scholarship



FRIDLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS HONORED AT ACADEMIC ALL-STARS CELEBRATION



Over 280 Fridley Middle School students were honored at the Academic All-Stars Celebration on May 24, 2019. The annual event recognizes students who have exemplified dedication, hard work and persistence in pursuit of their education. To receive an Academic All-Star invitation, students must have at least 80 percent of their reported scores graded as Mastering or Excelling on Achievement Scores and Meeting or Exceeding on their Process Score.

FRIDLEY HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR TESTIFIES AT U.S. HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Fridley High School senior and Key Club International President Emily Rice testified before the United States House Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations on March 12, 2019, advocating for maternal and neonatal tetanus funding in the 2020 fiscal year. Her testimony was on behalf of Kiwanis International, an international service club, which has partnered with the UNICEF Eliminate Project. The Eliminate Project aims to provide life-saving services to women and children all over the world, including vaccines to prevent maternal and neonatal tetanus.



FHS students earn awards at MSHSL Visual Art competition

Congratulations to five Fridley High School students who earned awards at the annual Minnesota State High School League Visual Art Competition held at the Perpich Center for Arts Education in Golden Valley on March 30, 2019.

Overall, the students received 14 Superior Awards, which is the highest rating, and one Excellent Award. Additionally, two FHS students, Puwch Cham and Samira Dabarani, earned the Judge's Choice Spotlight on the Arts awards.



From left to right: Puwch Cham, Alissa Marquardt, Malina Om, Samira Dabarani, Jasmine Crohn and FHS art teacher Cheryl Burghardt.

NINE FRIDLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS ADVANCED TO NATIONAL HISTORY DAY STATE COMPETITION

Congratulations to nine Fridley Middle School 8th grade students who advanced to the National History Day state competition! National History Day is an interdisciplinary research project that FMS 8th grade students participate in annually. Students explore world issues and develop their inquiry and research skills.

ADVANCED TO STATE-LEVEL COMPETITION:

- Veronique Kolibe-Gnamikou and Fatema Kathem - *Radium Girls*
- Serina Wood and Cassie Herrman - *DPN Protest*
- Suriyah Thao and Khaliifo Aden - *Murder of Vincent Chin*
- Iman Ahmed and Renelle Chesson - *Jesse Owens*
- Liz Nordin - *Native American Boarding Schools*

HONORABLE MENTION:

- Nick Richard and Alen Kahrmanovic - *Tet Offensive*
- Sumaya Ahmed - *13th Amendment*

Pictured left: Fridley Middle School 8th grade student Liz Nordin won the State Topical Prize for Best Junior American Indian History Project



FHS SENIOR OLIVIA YANG EARNS NCWIT ASPIRATIONS in COMPUTING AWARD



Senior Olivia Yang was awarded the Aspirations in Computing award, presented by the National Center for Women and Information Technology (NCWIT). Each year, female high school students in grades 9-12 are eligible to receive this recognition for their demonstrated interest and achievements in computing, proven leadership ability, academic performance and post-secondary education goals.

Olivia has a strong passion for science and engineering, which began to develop during high school. She was president of the FHS Science Club, and was highly involved with the FHS Robotics team.

Notably, Olivia is a student leader on the Hennepin County Library Teen Tech Squad, working at the Brookdale Library in Brooklyn Center. She designs, implements, and facilitates twice-monthly workshops centered on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics for youth in grades K-12.

Olivia was one of 37 recipients of the NCWIT Aspirations in Computing Award from across Minnesota. She and her fellow honorees were recognized at the 7th annual Minnesota Aspirations in Computing Award ceremony on April 17, 2019. Olivia plans to pursue her interests in either biomedical or mechanical engineering in college.



Fridley High School Senior Signing Day recognizes student athletes' next steps, college commitments

Congratulations to 12 Fridley High School student athletes who officially signed their college commitments on May 8, 2019 at the Senior Signing Day celebration. These seniors were honored for their hard work, and commitment to pursue higher education and next level athletics at their chosen colleges.

"We are so proud of our students who are signing today," said Fridley Activities and Athletics Director Dan Roff. "We also want to recognize that this is a family accomplishment. We know how much work has been put in over the years."

Top Photo: Back row, l to r: Gabe Allen, Jhordyn Chalmers, Casey Fisher, Cece Lewis. Front row, l to r: Evan Shaw, Ragin Kanneh, Harrison Blum, Jamia Johnson, Jesus Analco-Morales. Not pictured: Cooper Severson, Andrew Akermann. **Bottom Photo:** Britney Smith



FHS JUNIORS EARN HARVARD PRIZE AND YALE BOOK AWARDS

Congratulations to Fridley High School juniors Yangchen Namgyal and Asanti Ahmed who earned the Harvard Prize Book Award and Yale Book Award, respectively. Both Yangchen and Asanti were chosen because they are the top-ranked students in the FHS junior class.



From left to right: Asanti Ahmed, FHS Principal Patty Hand, Yangchen Namgyal

The Harvard prize is given through the Harvard Club of Minnesota to an outstanding member of a high school junior class who demonstrates excellence in scholarship, as well as high achievement in other areas such as community service. Yangchen was awarded the book, "Justice, What's The Right Thing To Do?"

The Yale award recognizes juniors for outstanding character and intellectual promise. Asanti received the book, "A Little History of the United States" through the Yale Alumni Association of the Northwest.





Shaping Business Leaders of the Future

HAYES ELEMENTARY “MARKET DAY” SHARPENS BUSINESS ACUMEN FOR 3RD GRADERS

Purchasing products with “market money,” excited Hayes Elementary School 3rd grade students bought and sold their homemade wares at the school’s annual “Market Day” on March 27, 2019. Market Day is a culminating International Baccalaureate (IB) Primary Years Programme (PYP) project for the school’s 3rd graders that teaches students entrepreneurship, production and consumption, and the laws of supply and demand. The IB PYP challenges students to explore local and global issues, as well as learn from opportunities in real-life contexts. The purpose of Market Day is to bring real world experiences into the classroom in a fun and engaging way, while teaching students about the economy and global markets.



FHS Theory of Knowledge students attend Westminster Forum, hear from activist David Hogg

Over 40 Fridley High School students attended the Westminster Town Hall Forum in Minneapolis on March 19, 2019 to hear from activist David Hogg, a survivor of the 2018



FHS junior Eli Paton (left) and David Hogg

mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. He is among 20 Parkland students who founded Never Again MSD (Marjory Stoneman Douglas), a gun control advocacy group, and is a founding member of March for Our Lives, one of the largest youth-led movements around the world.

Students who attended the field trip were part of the International Baccalaureate (IB) Theory of Knowledge (ToK) class.

FHS JAZZ ENSEMBLE PERFORMS AT CROONERS SUPPER CLUB



Many community members enjoyed an afternoon of jazz performed by the Fridley High School Jazz Ensemble at Crooners Supper Club in Fridley on March 3, 2018. The band performed a 90 minute set with classic songs like *Sir Duke* by Stevie Wonder, *What a Wonderful World* by George Douglas & George David Weiss, among others.

OUR STUDENTS

Fridley Key Club students earn awards, Distinguished Diamond Level distinction at District Convention

For the 17th year in a row, Fridley High School Key Club earned the Distinguished Diamond Level Club distinction at the Minnesota-Dakota’s District Convention on March 8-10, 2019. The FHS Key Club also took home multiple 1st place awards, including:

- 1st place in Major Emphasis Project for Socktober
- 1st place in Single Service Project for “Times for Troops” Kiwanis Family Award
- 1st place in the District Theme Award: “Service Around the World.”

Individual Awards included:

- 1st place Digital Recruitment Poster - Vanessa Lor
- 1st place Non-digital Poster - Devika Ramnarine and Abt Petersen
- 1st place Non-traditional Scrapbook – Gao-je Vang
- 1st place Promotional Key Club Video – Gao-je Vang and Stefany Martinez-Peréz
- Distinguished President Award – Gao-je Vang
- Distinguished Secretary Award – Yangchen Namgyal
- Distinguished Treasurer Award – Hycha Thao



TIGERS United hosts Culture Week, highlighted with Culture Night

In an opportunity to share their cultural identity with peers, Fridley High School student group TIGERS United hosted Culture Week during the week of April 29 to May 3, 2019. Each day, a different ring of culture was represented, with the purpose of encouraging others to learn about and celebrate the cultural diversity at FHS. The week’s events culminated on May 2 with Culture Night, which featured stories, dances and vocal performances in the Fridley High School auditorium.



Stevenson Elementary hosts Family Science and Engineering Night



From building circuits to making mini-catapults, the activities at Stevenson Elementary School’s Science and Engineering Night fueled an interest in science and technology - igniting the creative minds of over 400 students and their families.

The event, held on March 14, 2019, offered a multitude of activities that filled the school’s classrooms, gymnasium, and media center. The activities were provided through a partnership with the Works Museum, an interactive technology and science museum located in Bloomington, Minn. As an International Baccalaureate (IB) World School, all students at Stevenson Elementary learn from the IB inquiry-based Primary Years Programme (PYP) framework. Through engaging activities and lessons at Science and Engineering Night, students were encouraged to be curious and experiment as life-long learners. Families were also able to take home projects and ideas that students can work on at home.

Once a Giraffe... Always a Giraffe

John Piotraschke retires from Hayes Elementary, transitions into Director of Teaching and Learning

John Piotraschke always had a desire to become principal someday. A passionate educator, he grew up around education, as his father was a career-long teacher. It was in the summers of his early middle school years, and the formative years to follow, that shaped his future. As a 6th grader, while his father taught students how to read in summer school at New Hope Elementary, Piotraschke got a taste of teaching by tutoring students to help improve their reading skills. These experiences left an impression on him and inspired him to pursue elementary education at the University of Minnesota.

After teaching at Crestview and Fernbrook Elementaries in Osseo Area Schools, Piotraschke was hired by mentor and friend Bill Tessman, who was opening a new school in the district, Weaver Lake Elementary. The two shared a strong bond, and Tessman was the leader who encouraged Piotraschke to fulfill his longtime ambition to become a principal. After serving as a teacher and instructional leader, he spent his final three years at Weaver Lake as assistant principal.

Piotraschke first served as principal in Albert Lea for five years, then along with his family's desire to return to the Twin Cities area, decided to apply for the principal position at Hayes Elementary School. He was hired for the position and began serving in 2004.

For 17 years, Piotraschke has led this giraffe family with genuine care and compassion. According to Piotraschke, Hayes Elementary has evolved into the place he's always envisioned, with a team that is second-to-none.

Piotraschke has maintained the giraffe culture as an integral part of the community. "Giraffes stick their necks out, they take care of each other, they have big hearts, they aren't afraid to take risks, and they always work together - those



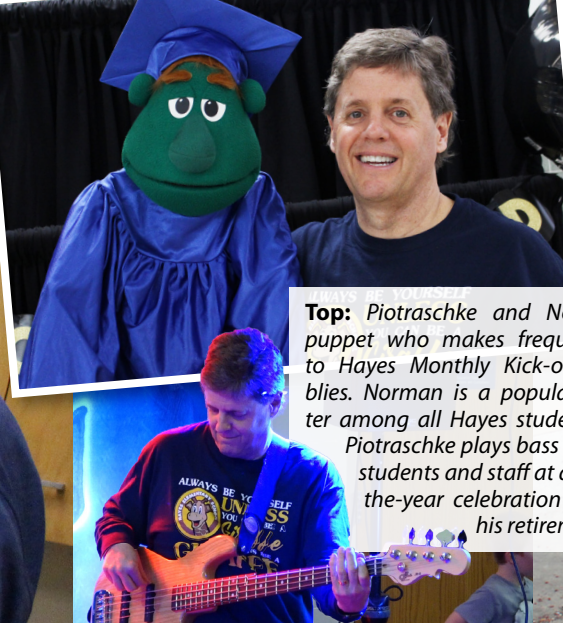
Piotraschke and past Hayes principal Dr. Lee Switzer opened the Hayes Time Capsule on May 31 that was buried during Switzer's tenure in 1990. Over the past 50 years, Hayes has only had a total of four principals, all of whom served more than a decade.

things together make our family who we are," he said. "Those are some of the ideals that we try to live by and that have become our stage."

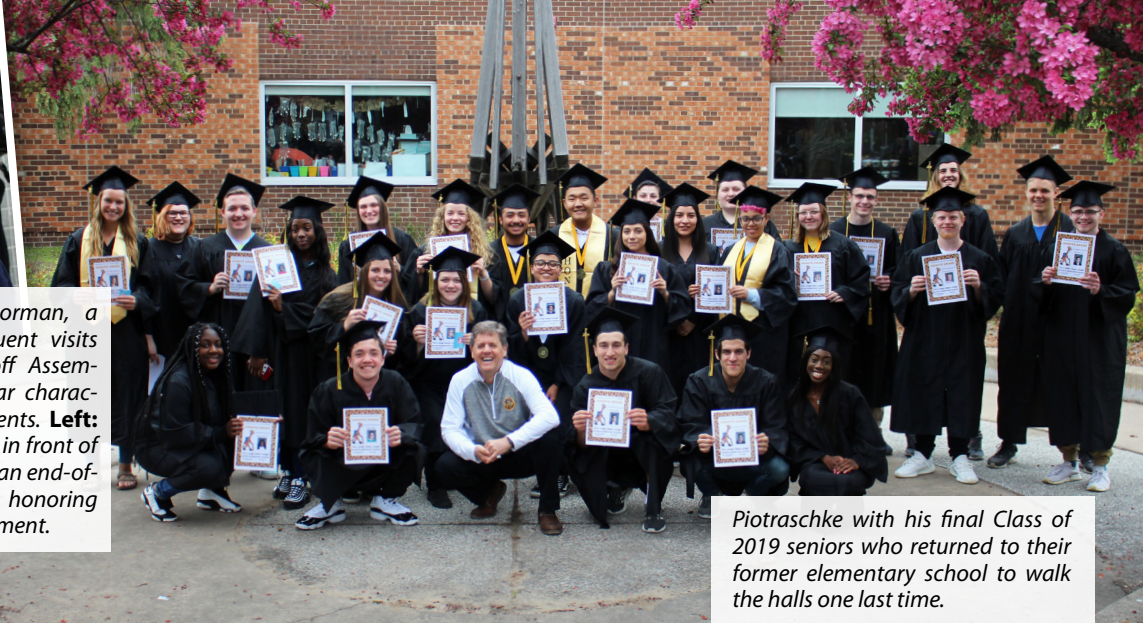
"We've created real family dynamic at Hayes," Piotraschke added. "We really care about each other, we're not afraid to ask hard questions or have hard conversations, and there's never any love lost when we do that, because we've taken the time to develop those relationships. That's what I'll miss about being here more than anything."

"I have had the **privilege** of leading this **great school community** and have taken **great pride** in the education that our dedicated team of teachers and staff have provided to our **young learners**, students who I have had the honor of calling **my students.**"

- JOHN PIOTRASCHKE



Top: Piotraschke and Norman, a puppet who makes frequent visits to Hayes Monthly Kick-off Assemblies. Norman is a popular character among all Hayes students. **Left:** Piotraschke plays bass in front of students and staff at an end-of-the-year celebration honoring his retirement.



Piotraschke with his final Class of 2019 seniors who returned to their former elementary school to walk the halls one last time.

The end of the 2018-19 school year was bittersweet for Piotraschke and the Giraffe family – as he prepared to retire from the school. In a message addressed to Hayes families, he shared his deep gratitude to the parents and students who have been a part of his journey here.

"I have had the privilege of leading this great school community and have taken great pride in the education that our dedicated team of teachers and staff have provided to our young learners, students who I have had the honor of calling my students," Piotraschke said. "It's been my pride and joy to see them grow into confident and motivated middle and high school students destined for very bright futures. Along the way, I met and got to know many parents and families who,

through the years, became an integral part of our amazing Hayes giraffe family."

As Piotraschke hangs up his principal's hat, he transitions into the interim Director of Teaching and Learning.

Piotraschke enjoys running, biking and spending time at his family's lake home. He's also been a lifelong musician and still often plays guitar, bass and sings. He and his wife Cheryl, a teacher in Osseo Area Schools, have two children, daughter Lauryn and son Johnathan. Lauryn [Grimes] and her husband David, recently welcomed Piotraschke's grandson Kaz. This summer, the Piotraschke family is also looking forward to Johnathon's wedding.

Fridley Public Schools welcomes new Hayes Elementary Principal

Fridley Public Schools welcomes Angaelicka (Gaeli) Iverson, who will begin serving as Hayes Elementary School principal on July 1, 2019.

A highly respected leader, Iverson most recently served as an assistant principal at Sonnesyn Elementary School in Robbinsdale Area Public Schools, a position she has held for the past year. She previously served for two years in the same district as an assistant principal at Meadow Lake Elementary School.

A passionate educator, Iverson's teaching career includes eight years of teaching grades 3-6 in multiple schools in the Osseo Area School district. She also served as an administrative intern and behavior intervention teacher for three years in the same district. Iverson has a strong focus on building genuine relationships, and works hard to establish a positive and collaborative school community in which all individuals are supported to reach their highest potential every day.

"Hayes Elementary has a rich heritage of excellence and high expectations for students and staff, and Iverson has developed a reputation that guarantees continuance of these ideals. I have no doubt that she will help our Giraffes reach new and

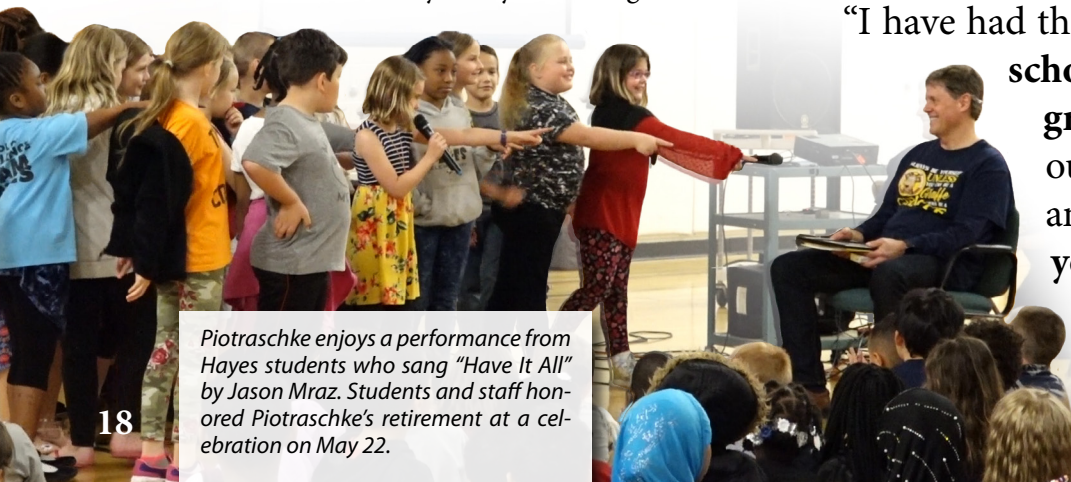


"Hayes Elementary School is a diverse school that is rich in *values* and *belief* in all children *obtaining their goals* and becoming *life-long learners*. I am **thrilled** and **excited** to become a member of the **Hayes Giraffe Family.**"

- GAELI IVERSON
NEW HAYES ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL

exciting heights," said former Hayes principal John Piotraschke.

Iverson received her bachelor's degree in education from St. Cloud State University, and both her master's degree in educational leadership and administrative licensure from Concordia University. She holds a K-12 educational specialist licensure and K-6 elementary education, as well as 5-8 communications arts and literature licensures. She is an academic data team trainer who has also participated in professional development training that includes Positive Behavior Interventionist and Supports (PBIS Training with MDE)/Safe and Civil Schools, Teacher Evaluation Danielson Framework, Restorative Justice Training, and Responsive Classroom training.



Piotraschke enjoys a performance from Hayes students who sang "Have It All" by Jason Mraz. Students and staff honored Piotraschke's retirement at a celebration on May 22.



Director of Educational Services Imina Oftedahl retires

Fridley Public Schools bid farewell to Imina Oftedahl, Director of Educational Services, who retired at the end of the 2018-19 school year. Oftedahl served in this position for nine years.

Oftedahl first began her teaching career on the CRIT (Colorado River Indian Tribes) Reservation in Parker, Arizona, where she taught reading, health, language arts and an ESL (English as a Second Language) transition class. She moved to Minnesota in 1991 and taught at White Bear Lake Area Schools, then transitioned into a coordinator for professional development and curriculum design. After earning her administrative license, she began working at Centennial Public Schools as Director of Curriculum. Oftedahl later worked as a product manager for educational assessments at Pearson Education, a world-wide textbook publishing company, and served as vice president of publishing. After years of high-demand travel in her career, Oftedahl accepted an opportunity at Fridley Public Schools as the Director of Educational Services in 2009.

At the time, the district was just beginning its International Baccalaureate (IB) journey with the authorization of Fridley Middle School as an IB World School in 2007. By 2010, all schools in the district received the IB World Schools designation, thus making Fridley one of few districts to offer the entire IB Continuum. All students learn from the Primary Years Programme (PYP) in both elementary schools, complete the Middle Years Programme (MYP) in middle school and 9th and 10th grade, then take rigorous Diploma Programme



Director of Educational Services Imina Oftedahl was the keynote speaker at this year's Fridley Moore Lake Area Learning Center Commencement Celebration on May 23, 2019.

(DP) courses during 11th and 12th grade, which follows the "IB For All" model. Fridley High School students also have the opportunity to enroll in the full DP or Career-related Programme.

In support of "IB For All," Oftedahl helped to lay the foundation of AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination), a significant support system which has helped hundreds of Fridley High School students prepare for and earn acceptance into college. The program has expanded to Fridley Middle School, providing support to 7th and 8th grade students. Fridley High School also practices AVID Schoolwide, where all students thrive within a culture of college readiness, strategic and systematic study structures, and high academic expectations.

Another support piece has included the implementation of K-12 reading intervention with the overlaying of the MTSS (Multi-tiered System of Support) model.

"I'm proud of the work that our teachers have done to develop the program," said Oftedahl. "It has evolved, using collaboration pieces, data, and differentiating what we're doing in classrooms. We're proud to provide that individualized learning to help all our students."

Oftedahl also noted that she is proud of the evolution of the Fridley Moore Lake Area Learning Center (ALC), which has become a true environment of alternative and personalized learning in the district. Offering additional support, space, time, and flexibility, the ALC has successfully helped hundreds of students to achieve their goals and receive their high school diplomas.

Oftedahl said she will miss the excitement of the volume, variety and velocity of constant moving pieces that have been part of her career at Fridley Public Schools. In her retirement, Oftedahl looks forward to spending time with her family, husband Kris and daughter, Olivia.

FRIDLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS WELCOMES NEW HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR



Fridley Public Schools welcomed Steven "Ike" Isaacson as the new Human Resources Director on April 1, 2019. Isaacson brings nearly 20 years of experience to the position, including eight years as assistant Human Resource Director at St. Cloud Area Public Schools and nine years as Human Resources Director at Home Depot.

Isaacson's long term vision of his work at Fridley Public Schools is based on a foundation of collaboration, transparency and trust.

"We want to ensure that we are supporting everyone in ways that they need support, while also honoring standards of conduct," said Isaacson. "We certainly have to be collaborative, not just with administrators, but with everyone, regardless of their role. All roles in our district are equally vital and play an essential part in the success of our students."

While working in St. Cloud, Isaacson served on the Board of Directors for Reach Up Head Start, a comprehensive education and support services program that serves low-income families with young children. Isaacson holds a bachelor's degree in English from St. Cloud State University. He and his wife, Christene, live in Plymouth. Together, they share four adult children, Eli, Ian, Caleb and Kymble. In his free time, Isaacson and his wife live an active lifestyle - often enjoying long distance runs, bike rides and sea kayaking.



Fridley High School "Coach Mac" to be inducted into MBCA Hall of Fame

For Coach Mac, teaching and coaching goes hand in hand. Longtime Fridley High School teacher and varsity boys basketball head coach Jim MacDonald has dedicated his life to supporting the students of Fridley Public Schools - both in the classroom and on the court. This fall, MacDonald will officially be inducted into the Minnesota Basketball Coaches Association (MBCA) Hall of Fame. This prestigious honor is given to only a handful of coaches each year. Honorees are individuals who have made significant lifetime contributions to coaching basketball.

"This induction isn't just for me," said MacDonald. "It's for every student that's put on that Fridley uniform - I'm glad that they are recognizing all the success that we've shared. This is a part of them and the parents who have allowed me to coach."

MacDonald first started student-teaching at Fridley High School in 1987. Over the years, he's taught physical education and health classes at every building in the district, but has remained at Fridley High School since 2004. In addition to Phy. Ed., MacDonald teaches a character education leadership class, which focuses on nationally-recognized character education called "Top 20 Training." The curriculum surrounds social-emotional training to empower students to make a positive difference - life lessons that are important to students.

MacDonald has been head coach of the Fridley boys basketball team since 1988, coaching more than 30 basketball teams. He has also served as head and assistant coach to the Fridley boys and girls track and field teams, totaling over 15 years, and Fridley football team assistant coach for four years.

As part of the MBCA Hall of Fame Class of 2019, MacDonald joins a list of legendary high school basketball coaches that dates back to 1984. He is the first Fridley boys basketball coach to be awarded this honor.

Read Coach Mac's full story at www.fridley.k12.mn.us in the Fridley Public Schools News Archive!

View more **NEWS** in the **SPOTLIGHT** section on the homepage. Story is published in the **NEWS ARCHIVE** in May 2019.

NOTEWORTHY:

As Director of Educational Services Imina Oftedahl retires, we look back on the significant advancements that were made in the Fridley school district during her tenure:

IB For All

Not only have all Fridley Public Schools become authorized **International Baccalaureate World Schools**, Fridley High School offers all students the opportunity to take rigorous IB Diploma Programme classes.



Implementation of AVID

In support of students taking rigorous IB DP classes, Oftedahl helped lay the foundation for AVID, a highly successful academic support program for students in middle and high school.



MTSS Model

Overlaying the Multi-tiered Systems of Support Model into reading intervention programs has helped to improve academic growth and achievement for many Fridley students.

Summer 2019



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Fridley High School students witnessed first-hand the impact of drunk and distracted driving during a simulated fatal crash on April 25 and 26, 2019, during the two-day Arrive Alive program.

Held at the football stadium, juniors and seniors watched as their peers acted in an eerily realistic simulation of a two-car collision that resulted in the death of two students. After the “crash” occurred, law enforcement, firefighters, paramedics and a medical helicopter responded to the scene. The following morning, students gathered in the auditorium to watch a short film of the event that occurred the day before, as well as the consequences that followed. The program also featured guest speakers who brought emotional awareness and spoke about the legal implications of impaired and distracted driving. Guest speakers included: Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) member Gina Calistro, Anoka County Attorney Tony Palumbo and Fridley Director of Public Safety Brian Weierke.



Fridley High School students acting in a simulated fatal car crash, as part of the Arrive Alive program.

ARRIVE ALIVE PROGRAM SHOWS DANGEROUS IMPLICATIONS OF DISTRACTED DRIVING



“The purpose of this program is to bring awareness to the dangers of distracted and impaired driving,” said FHS School Resource Officer Randi Oman, who coordinated the program. “Actually allowing our students to experience the sounds and sights of this deadly scene is meant to impact their future decisions.”

Held in partnership with the Fridley Police Department, Arrive Alive was brought to Fridley High School in 2015 and occurs every two years. The program involves a number of community organizations that volunteer their time and resources, including Allina Ambulance, Life Link III, Miller Funeral Home, Schmit Towing, Fridley Police and Fire Departments, as well as Anoka County: Dispatch, Sheriff’s Office, Attorney’s Office, Public Defender’s Office, and District Court.

Minnesota Orchestra performs, hosts Q&A session at FHS

The Minnesota Orchestra made a rare school appearance at Fridley High School on April 30, 2019 to give music students a taste of what is possible as musicians, as well as a feel for how music can affect the soul. Maestro Juanjo Mena conducted over 60 musicians

who performed on the high school’s stage through Tchaikovsky’s four-movement Symphony No. 6. In between each portion, violist Sam Bergman narrated the context of the composition from historical perspectives to the

emotional, personal and artistry of the music. He also recounted how Tchaikovsky was as a person and artist, and how real-life situations affected his music composition. Following the concert, students had the opportunity to learn more from the Minnesota Orchestra during a Question & Answer session.

FRIDLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS HONORS VOLUNTEERS AT RECOGNITION BREAKFAST CELEBRATION



To recognize and honor Fridley Public Schools volunteers, the district hosted its eighth annual Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast on May 9, 2019 at the Fridley Community Center.

Volunteers spend hundreds of hours each year across the district supporting schools and students, and making a powerful impact on the learning experiences of students. Examples of volunteering include company-wide donations of school supplies from local company MINCO; spending time coaching and teaching students in LEGO League (an engineering and robotics club) and the Fridley High School Robotics team; helping students to reinforce phonics and math skills; donating time, money and effort to activities and athletics programs; and Cummins Power company who spend time mentoring high school students.



Foundation President Renee VanGorp and Gordon Backlund, the 2019 Golden Apple Award recipient.

FRIDLEY SCHOOLS FOUNDATION CELEBRATES 20 YEARS OF SUPPORTING STUDENTS AT BLACK & GOLD GALA

For 20 years, the Fridley Schools Foundation has been enriching educational opportunities for Fridley Public School students and supporting their higher academic aspirations as they build their individual roads to success. To continue its support and commemorate these successes, the Foundation held its second Black & Gold Gala on March 28, 2019 at Jax Café in Minneapolis. More than 150 community and staff members attended the event, participating in silent and live auctions and donating to support the mission of the foundation.

As the largest Fridley Schools Foundation fundraising event of the year, the gala plays an essential role in raising money to support educator innovation grants and student scholarships for graduating seniors. This year, over \$27,000 was raised to enhance opportunities for district students.

The Golden Apple Award

This year, Gordon Backlund, a founding member who was instrumental in the genesis of the Fridley Schools Foundation, was recognized at the gala with the Golden Apple Award. The award is given to a member of the Fridley Public Schools community who has made a significant impact through years of service.

Backlund served on the Fridley School Board for 24 years, from 1989 to 2013. It was in 1999, after discussion with the board and then superintendent Mary Ann Nelson, that Backlund took it upon himself to organize and establish the beginnings of the Fridley Schools Foundation. He also served as the Foundation’s first president. In addition to being one of the founding members, Backlund has worked to benefit the school district in many ways, including as a board member supporting and championing the district’s journey to all schools becoming International Baccalaureate World Schools.

“It’s been such a privilege to work with wonderful and talented people. It has enabled me to grow and gain an understanding of what makes our lives worthwhile. **It will always be our mission to benefit and fulfill the needs of the students at Fridley Public Schools and I am honored to have been a part of that.**”

— GORDON BACKLUND
2019 GOLDEN APPLE AWARD RECIPIENT

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Free bike giveaway serves Fridley Public Schools families



A record-breaking 450 bicycles were given to Fridley Public Schools families at the third annual Free Bikes for Kids event, hosted at R.L. Stevenson Elementary on April 13, 2019. Each participating child and adult was fitted for a helmet and matched with a bike in the gymnasium.

The event, organized by Allina Health, is held in partnership with two nonprofits: Free Bikes 4 Kidz (FB4K) and Bikes 4 Kids. This year, the organizations held nine bike giveaway events across the metro area, with three additional events to be held this spring and early summer.

Every fall, Allina holds a community bike collection to gather gently used bikes. With thousands of bikes donated, volunteers from FB4K and Bikes 4 Kids clean and repair the collected bikes to ensure that all bikes are in top riding condition. At the Stevenson event, Bikes 4 Kids volunteer mechanics helped to make last-minute adjustments to the bikes and tailored the fit to the needs of their new owners.





A World-Class Community of Learners

FRIDLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

6000 West Moore Lake Drive
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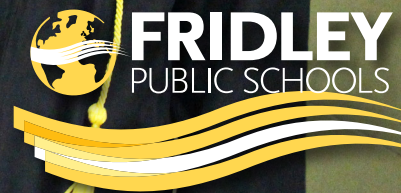
Twin Cities, MN

PERMIT No. 2613

Graduating FRIDLEY HIGH SCHOOL seniors visit their former elementary schools

An annual tradition, Fridley High School seniors took one last lap around their former elementary schools before graduating. The soon-to-be-alumni visited Hayes Elementary School on May 23, 2019 and Stevenson Elementary School on May 24.

Elementary students and staff members were thrilled to greet the graduates - lining the hallways to give high fives and cheers. The seniors celebrated their commencement on May 30, 2019.



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